

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-05 L-01 ACDA-05 NSAE-00

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

ISO-00 DRC-01 SS-20 NSC-05 /065 W

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R 141555Z OCT 74

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8153

SECDEF WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T USNATO 5666

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, MPOL, NATO

SUBJ: STRENGTH OF SOVIET ARMED FORCES: IMPACT ON MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE

REF: A. DIA DTG 020929Z (NOTAL)

B. USDELMC 899 DTG 121220Z (NOTAL)

C. USNATO 5657

1. NATO SITUATION CENTER CIRCULATED IN IM(74)175 NEW DIA ESTIMATE OF TOTAL STRENGTH OF SOVIET FORCES. DIA PROVIDED ESTIMATE TO NATO SITUATION CENTER AND MAJOR NATO COMMANDERS (REF A). DIA ESTIMATES AN INCREASE IN SOVIET GENERAL SUPPORT STRENGTH OF ABOUT 800 THOUSAND (BY A FACTOR OF APPROXIMATELY 95 PERCENT). DIA STATES QUOTE THE MAJORITY OF THESE ARE LOCATED WITHIN THE USSR, AND, THEREFORE, THE IMPACT OF THIS ASSESSMENT ON MBFR IS NOT SIGNIFICANT. END QUOTE.

2. AS A RESULT OF IM(74)175, DURING OCTOBER 10 MC MEETING, IMS CURRENT INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING NOTED THE NEW ESTIMATE, MC REPS MADE NO COMMENTS, (REF B). DURING
SECRET

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OCTOBER 11, MBFR DATA SUPPORT SUBGROUP MEETING, FRG REP EXPRESSED DOUBTS AT DIA'S CLAIM THAT INCREASED ESTIMATE DID NOT IMPACT SIGNIFICANTLY ON MBFR (REF C). ADDITIONALLY, FRG PERM REP KRAPT IN A CORRIDOR CONVERSATION ASKED DCM MCAULIFFE ABOUT

INCREASE.

3. MISSION BELIEVES THAT UNLESS NEW ESTIMATE IS PLACED RAPIDLY IN AN APPROPRIATE CONTEXT, IT COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT US POSITION ON THE CONVENTIONAL BALANCE AND COULD (EVEN IF MOST OF 800 THOUSAND ARE IN THE SOVIET UNION) COMPLICATE MBFR, PARTICULARLY QUESTIONS OF SOVIET STRENGTH IN NGA, GEOGRAPHICAL DISPARITIES, AND NON-CIRCUMVENTION IN THE WESTERN MILITARY DISTRICTS AND ON THE FLANKS. ALLIES MAY NOW PRESS MISSION FOR ANSWERS TO TWO QUESTIONS: A) DOES NEW ESTIMATE ALTER US POSITION ON THE CONVENTIONAL BALANCE AND B) WHY DOES DIA ESTIMATE NOT IMPACT SIGNIFICANTLY ON MBFR?

ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE TO ASSIST MISSION IN FIELDING ANTICIPATED QUESTIONS AND ANY SUPPORTIVE MATERIAL PLACING NEW ESTIMATE IN PROPER CONTEXT.RUMSFELD

SECRET

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 11 JUN 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ATO05666
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741091/abbryxue.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. DIA DTG 020929Z (NOTAL) B. USDELMC 899 DTG 121220Z (NOTAL) C. USNATO 5657
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 MAR 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <22 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STRENGTH OF SOVIET ARMED FORCES: IMPACT ON MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE
TAGS: PARM, MPOL, NATO
To: STATE
SECDEF
DIA INFO BONN
LONDON
MBFR VIENNA
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005